

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 02657 281624Z

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2657

STADIS

FOR AF/S ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS MPOL ZA

SUBJ: ZAMBIA SECURITY SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

REF: STATE 167901, STATE 182987, STATE 175080, TIERNEY-SMITH

7/28 TELCON

THIS IS PRELIMINARY RESPONSE TO REPORTING REQUIREMENT ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE. IT HAS BEEN PREPARED IN THE ABSENCE OF AMBASSADOR LOW AND SHOULD BE SHOWN TO HIM FOR HIS COMMENTS, ADDITIONS, AND/OR DELETIONS. WE UNDERSTAND HE WILL BE IN THE DEPARTMENT JULY 31. THE FOLLOWING RESPONSES ARE KEYED TO THE INITIAL TASKING MESSAGE (STATE 167901).

3.A.1. A MODEST PROGRAM OF FMS CREDITS TO PROVIDE NON-LETHAL EQUIPMENT TO ZAMBIA WOULD SERVE U.S. INTERESTS BY TANGIBLY DEMONSTRATING U.S. CONCERN FOR THE DEFENSIVE CAPABILITY OF A COUNTRY KEY TO THE ATTAINMENT OF RACIAL JUSTICE AND SELF-DETERMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS. A SECURITY ASSISTANCE RELATIONSHIP COULD AID U.S. OBJECTIVES BY PROVIDING ZAMBIA WITH AN ALTERNATIVE TO DEPENDENCE ON COMMUNIST SOURCES FOR MILITARY SUPPLIES AND THE RESULTANT INFLUENCE WHICH COULD THEREBY BE EXERTED.

3.A.2. EXTERNAL PERCEIVED THREAT - ZAMBIA PERCEIVES A SERIOUS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LUSAKA 02657 281624Z

THREAT TO ITS NATIONAL TERRITORY FROM THE REGIME IN RHODESIA, RESULTING FROM ITS COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT ZIMBABWEAN NATIONALISTS MATERIALLY AS WELL AS THROUGH THE PROVISION OF BASES FOR TRAINING AND OPERATIONAL PURPOSES. THE GRZ SEES A THREAT OF HOT-PURSUIT ATTACKS INTO ZAMBIAN TERRITORY AS WELL AS PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKES AGAINST NATIONALIST CAMPS. THERE IS ALSO CONCERN THAT RHODESIAN FORCES WOULD DIRECTLY ATTACK ZAMBIAN INSTALLATIONS SHOULD THE

RHODESIANS DETERMINE SUCH ACTION TO BE IN THEIR STRATEGIC INTERESTS. THE GRZ ALSO PERCEIVES AN ADDITIONAL THREAT FROM SOUTH AFRICA SHOULD ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE NAMIBIAN PROBLEM PEACEFULLY NOT SUCCEED. TO A LESSER DEGREE, ZAMBIAN AUTHORITIES ALSO SEE POTENTIAL DANGER IN THE CONTINUING UNSTABLE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN ZAIRE AND FROM ZAIREAN REBELS BASED IN ANGOLA. IN ALL THESE CASES, ZAMBIAN STRATEGY IS BASED ON STRENGTHENING THE MILITARY'S DEFENSIVE POSTURE AND DEVELOPING A LOW-SCALE RETALIATORY CAPABILITY.

3.A.2. INTERNAL PERCEIVED THREAT - AS THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN ZAMBIA CONTINUES TO DETERIORATE, THE GRZ WILL PROBABLY PERCEIVE A GROWING INTERNAL THREAT TO THE MAINTENANCE OF LAW AND ORDER. IN ADDITION TO A GROWING CRIME RATE RESULTING FROM ECONOMIC DISTRESS, THE GOVERNMENT PROBABLY ALSO IS CONCERNED WITH POLITICALLY MOTIVATED VIOLENCE SEEKING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A GROWING UNHAPPENESS AMONG THE GENERAL POPULATION. THE GRZ MAY ALSO PERCEIVE A POTENTIAL THREAT FROM THE LARGE NUMBER OF TRAINED AND ARMED NATIONALIST GUERRILLAS IN THE COUNTRY. TO MEET THESE POTENTIAL THREATS THE GOVERNMENT IS ATTEMPTING TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ITS POLICE FORCE AND TO PROVIDE IT WITH THE EQUIPMENT NECESSARY TO RESPOND SPEEDILY. IN THE CASE OF THE NATIONALIST FORCES, THE GRZ HAS TRIED TO MAINTAIN AS MUCH CONTROL AS POSSIBLE OVER THE ACTIVITIES OF THE GUERRILLAS.

3.A.3. POST BELIEVES THE GRZ'S ESTIMATES OF THE POTENTIAL EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL THREAT TO BE GENERALLY ACCURATE.

3.A.4. ZAMBIA BELIEVES THAT A CONVENTIONAL MILITARY FORCE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LUSAKA 02657 281624Z

WITH STRONG DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES IS BEST SUITED TO THE THREAT AND THE COUNTRY'S REQUIREMENTS.

3.A.5. POST BELIEVES THE TYPE OF MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT DESCRIBED ABOVE IS COMPATIBLE WITH U.S. INTERESTS.

3.A.6. SOLID DATA ON DEFENSE SPENDING ARE UNAVAILABLE. RECENT ESTIMATES, HOWEVER, INDICATE THAT THE MILITARY BUDGET ACCOUNTS FOR 12-15 PERCENT OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET AND ABOUT 5 PERCENT OF GNP, AND MILITARY IMPORTS MAY CONSTITUTE AS MUCH AS 20-25 PERCENT OF ALL IMPORTS. ZAMBIA'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS HAVE DECLINED RAPIDLY DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS AS A RESULT OF THE LOW WORLD COPPER PRICE. FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES NOW STAND AT A BARE MINIMUM LEVEL. CONCURRENTLY, ZAMBIA'S EXTERNAL PUBLICLY GUARANTEED DEBT AND DEBT SERVICE PROJECTIONS REACH A PEAK IN 1978/79. THUS ZAMBIA IS FORCED TO MEET HIGHER LEVELS OF DEBT REPAYMENT (A HIGH PRIORITY TO MAINTAIN INTERNATIONAL CREDIT-WORTHINESS) DURING A PERIOD OF LOW FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS.

3.A.7.-3.A.10. NO APPLICABLE THIS REPORT.

3.A.11. ZAMBIA'S RECORD ON HUMAN RIGHTS IS GENERALLY GOOD AND THE COUNTRY HAS EXTENSIVE CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES OF HUMAN RIGHTS. TO SOME EXTENT THESE GUARANTEES HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY THE STATE OF EMERGENCY DEEMED NECESSARY BY THE GOVERNMENT BECAUSE OF THE EXTERNAL PRESSURES RESULTING FROM SUPPORT OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN

LIBERATION EFFORTS. A SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN ZAMBIA'S DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES THROUGH THE SUPPLY OF NON-LETHAL MILITARY EQUIPMENT WOULD SEEM LIKELY TO BEST PROMOTE AND ADVANCE U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS OBJECTIVES.

3.A.12. ZAMBIA RECEIVES ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FROM THE U.S., WESTERN EUROPEAN NATIONS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. AT ONE TIME ZAMBIA WAS HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON THE UK FOR ITS MILITARY ASSISTANCE BUT NOW RECEIVES AID AND EQUIPMENT FROM A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES, BOTH EAST AND WEST.

3.A.13.A.-I. EMBASSY DOES NOT REPEAT NOT HAVE INFORMATION AVAILABLE NECESSARY TO RESPOND TO THESE SECTIONS. BUREAU SHOULD BE IN POSITION TO PREPARE RELY. CLINGERMAN

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